

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #75A-5 Building Date: 1830's, 1912
Building Name: Ryon Farmhouse (Covert Farm)
Location: 3700 Forestville Road, Forestville, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

The Ryon farmhouse is a two-part frame gable-roofed house: a three-bay two-story section attached at right angles to a three-bay one-and-one-half-story section. The main two-story section (ca. 32 by 16 feet) faces west, and entrance is through an off-center door in the central bay. Across the main west facade and the south gable end is a one-story porch supported by Doric columns. The rear, smaller section (ca. 16 by 26 feet) has a lower, steeper pitch to the roof; this roof extends to the south forming a porch which is flush with the south gable end of the main section. Practically nothing of the original fabric of the older section survives. Its lines suggest an early construction date (1830's, according to family tradition), but this cannot be substantiated by observation of the present structural materials.

Significance:

The Ryon farmhouse incorporates one of the oldest buildings surviving from the town of Long Old Fields, now known as Forestville. It stands in a prominent and visible location in open farmlands on the southeast edge of the present town, separated from the main commercial center by Maryland Route 4. It has been the home of the Ryon family since before the Civil War. The 65-acre farm called "Covert" was purchased in 1857 by Thomas Ryon of Jerry. Oral tradition suggests that the small, one-and-one-half-story dwelling house was already standing on the farm at that time. When Thomas Ryon died in 1889, he devised "Covert" to his son W. Ward Ryon. W. Ward Ryon continued to farm the property, and ca. 1912 built the two-story west addition to the house, thus more than doubling its size. Upon Ryon's death in 1945, the 45-acre farm was bequeathed to his daughter, Edna Ryon Entwisle. The house remains a prominent landmark in a rapidly developing area. The early twentieth century section is typical of modest farmhouses of its period, but the earlier section has lost most of its historic character.

Acreage: 31.9 acres

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Covert farmand/or common Ryon farmhouse

2. Location

street & number 3700 Forestville Road not for publicationcity, town Forestville vicinity of congressional district 5state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Edna Entwisle heirs, c/o W.R. Entwislestreet & number 3712 Forestville Road telephone no.: city, town Forestville, state and zip code Maryland 20747

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. County Courthouse liber 2117street & number Main Street folio 165city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P.G. County Inventory of Historic Sitesdate 1974 federal state X county local depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPCcity, town c/o Calvert Mansion, Riverdale, state MD. 20737

7. Description

Survey No. p.G. #75A-5

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Ryon farmhouse is a two-part frame gable-roofed house: a three-bay, two-story section, attached at right angles to a three-bay, one-and-one-half-story section. The main two-story section (ca. 32 by 16 feet) faces west, and entrance is through an off-center door in the central bay. There is an interior brick chimney at each end of the ridge. Across the main west facade is a one-story porch supported by Doric-order wooden columns; the porch wraps around the south gable end, sheltering a side door in its second (east) bay. This section is covered with asbestos shingle; the roof is covered with asphalt shingle; foundations are of brick. There is no basement.

The rear, smaller (ca. 16 by 26 feet) section of the house has a lower, steeper pitch to the roof; the roof extends to the south forming a porch which is flush with the south gable end of the main section. There is a central entrance into this south facade over which there is a dormer window. There is an interior chimney at the east end of the ridge. This section is covered with asbestos shingle, the roof with asphalt shingle, and the foundations are of concrete. There is a small basement space under this section.

Practically nothing of the original fabric of this section survives. Its lines suggest an early date of construction (1830's, according to family tradition), but this cannot be substantiated by observation of the present structural materials.

The doors and windows of both sections of the house have plain board surrounds.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #75A-5

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History

Specific dates 1830's. 1912 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Ryon farmhouse incorporates one of the oldest buildings surviving from the town of Long Old Fields, now known as Forestville. It stands in a prominent and visible location in open farmlands on the southeast edge of the present town, separated from the main commercial center by Maryland Route 4. It has been the home of the Ryon family since before the Civil War.

The 65-acre farm called "Covert", was purchased in 1857 by Thomas Ryon of Jerry¹. Oral tradition suggests that the small, one-and-one-half-story dwelling house was already standing on the farm at that time. When Thomas Ryon died in 1889, he devised "Covert" to his son W. Ward Ryon.² W. Ward Ryon continued to farm the property, and ca. 1912 built the two-story west addition to the house, thus more than doubling its size. Upon Ryon's death in 1945, the 45-acre farm was bequeathed to his daughter, Edna Ryon Entwisle.³ The house remains a prominent landmark in a rapidly developing area. The early twentieth century section is typical of modest farmhouses of its period, but the earlier section has lost most of its historic character.

¹ P.G. County Deeds CSM #2:258.

² P.G. County Will WAJ Jr. #1:555

³ P.G. County Will WEC #1:207; interview with family members, December 1984.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#75A-5

P.G. County Deeds: CSM#2:258, ON#2:91. #2117:162, #2117:165
P.G. Co. Wills - WAJjr.#1:555; WEC#1:207
Interview with owner.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 31.9 acresQuadrangle name Upper Marlboro Section A

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl & Rod McDonell, Research Historiansorganization Historic Preservation Commission date January 11, 1985street & number c/o County Planning Div., County Administration Bldg., telephone 952-3520city or town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

170225504

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: T. Ryon House				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Forestville Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Forestville				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY:	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC				
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:				
Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The house is a two story, frame structure with a three bay main (west) facade. The ground floor bays are irregular with the door in the center bay. There is a porch across the facade. On the rear is a 1-1/2 story ell with a steeply pitched roof. At either end of the main block are internal end chimneys. There is a tall chimney on the rear of the ell. The sheathing is clapboard and shingles.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"		°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"		°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

13 Sept 74

STREET AND NUMBER:

8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

Chain of Title

Ryon Farmhouse
P.G. #75A-5

2117:165
28 June 1957
Deed

Alderic Sturtevant to Eugene and Edna Entwisle: the remainder of the 65-acre farm not previously sold by W. Ward Ryon, totalling approximately 45 acres. Sturtevant acquired this land through 2117:162.

2117:162
28 June 1957
Deed

Eugene and Edna Entwisle to Alderic Sturtevant: 45 acres willed to Edna R. Entwisle by her father.

WEC #1:207
31 May 1945
Will

Testator, W. Ward Ryon; to daughter Edna Ryon Entwisle; remaining 45 acres of the original Ryon farm, including the farmhouse and outbuildings.

WAJ Jr.#1:555
19 Feb. 1889
Will

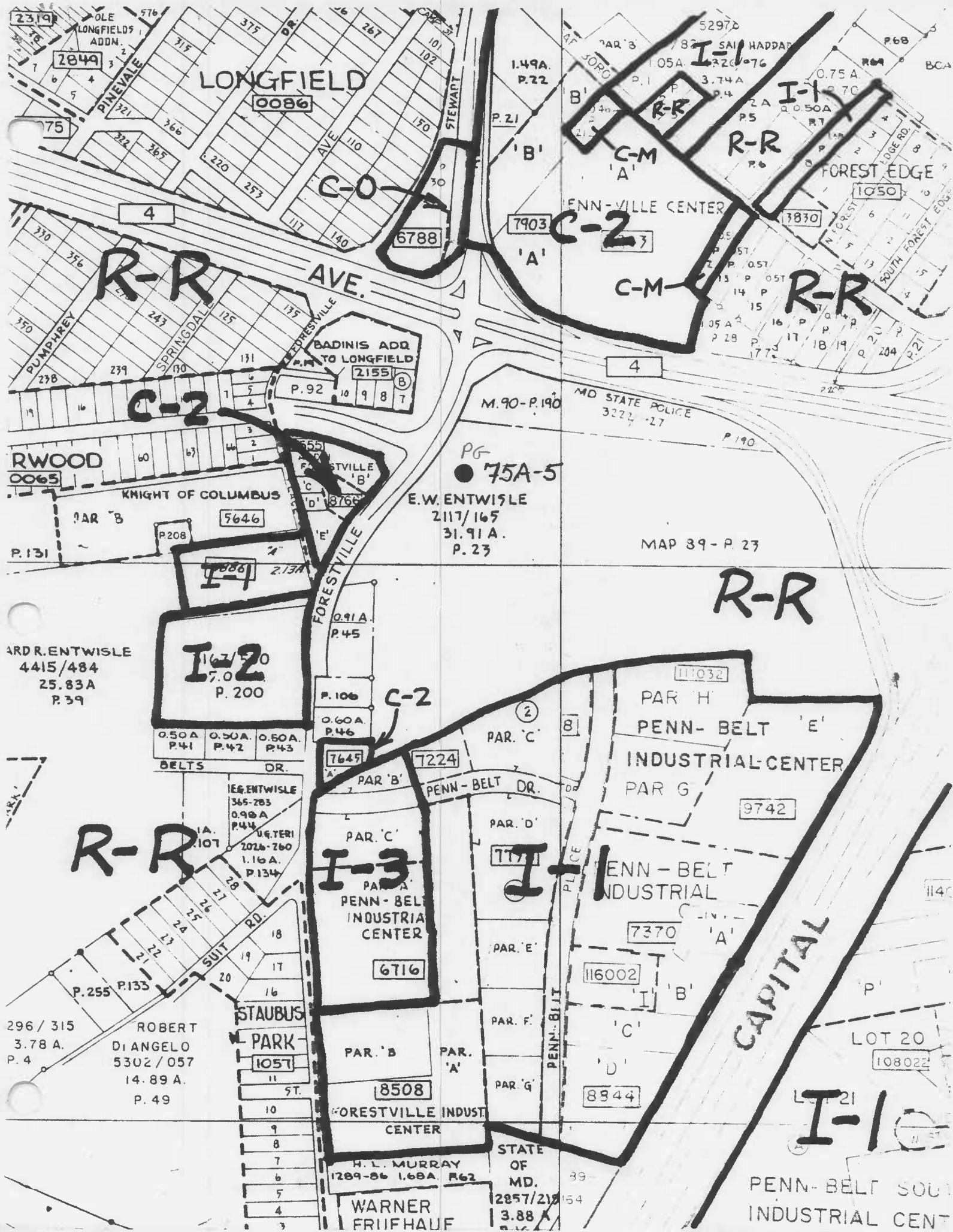
Testator, Thomas Ryon of Jerry; to son W. Ward Ryon, all of Thomas Ryon's property including "Covert". W. Ward Ryon named personal representative.

CSW #2:258
23 Sept. 1857
Deed

Hiram King to Thomas Ryon of Jerry. Approximately 65 acres near the village of Long Old Fields, known as "Covert".

ON #2:91
14 Aug. 1854
Deed

John Stuart to Hiram King, 65 acres known as "Covert" formerly belonging to Fielder Ryon near the village of Long Old Fields.





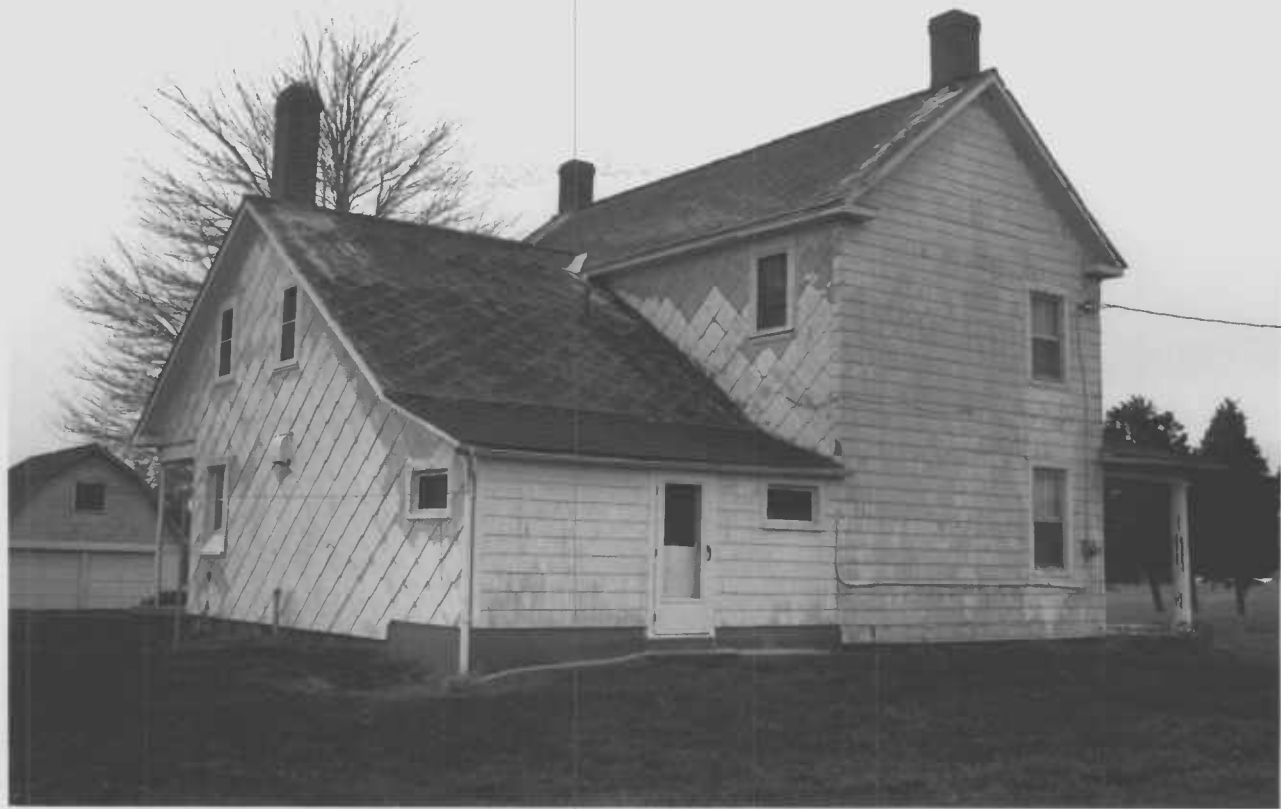
P.G.#75A-5

Ryon House (Covert Farm)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
December 1984
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#75A-5

Ryon House (Covert Farm)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
December 1984
South elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#75A-5

Ryon House (Covert Farm)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
December 1984
Northeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#75A-5

Ryon House (Covert Farm)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
December 1984
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



NAME T. RYON(?) FARM

PG:75A-5

LOCATION SW OF RTES. 4 + 495, FORESTVILLE, MD.

FACADE NW

PHOTO TAKEN 9/13/74

m. DWYER